

# **Jefferson City Department of Parks and Recreation Modified Softball 2016**



**Games begin the week of May 9**  
**Leagues are tentatively scheduled for the following nights:**  
**10u – Thursday, 12u – Tuesday, 14u – Wednesday**  
*(League nights and age groups may change depending  
on how the number and age of teams works out.)*  
**Tournament dates: July 9-10**

***The Jefferson City Parks and Recreation Department has established the following objectives for the Youth Softball program. It is our hope, our goal, and our responsibility to see that youth sports will be approached by all concerned as programs which will:***

- provide enjoyment for the participants, coaches, and parents;
- contribute to the mental, emotional, and physical growth and development of the participants;
- foster character by teaching participants how to win and how to accept defeat, while continually placing emphasis on fair play and fun;
- provide an opportunity for parents and children to participate in a common leisure interest;
- allow all children the right to participate as a child with competent, caring adult leadership and guidance;
- treat all children with dignity;
- provide adults with an opportunity to teach children the importance of sportsmanship, mature behavior, and the fun of participation in leisure activity.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

Each manager is responsible for the eligibility of his players. Use of an ineligible player shall result in forfeiture of the game(s) involved.

## **UNIFORMS/EQUIPMENT**

- Teams are responsible for providing their own uniforms. Player shirts should have numbers so that score keepers can properly keep track of batting order without knowing the players' names.
- Metal spikes are not permitted.
- Batters, on deck batters, base runners, and players coaching a base are required to wear an approved protective helmet (with face guard). Intentional removal of the helmet while base running will result in the player being called out (one warning per team).
- Each year, players are injured when struck in the mouth by a softball; therefore, we

- recommend that players consider wearing a mouthpiece during practices and games.
- Mandatory catcher's equipment includes a mask, helmet, chest protector, and shin guards. Any player warming up a pitcher must wear a mask.
- Team managers are responsible for seeing that all of their players are in compliance with the uniform and equipment rules.

### SCHEDULING

- Teams will be scheduled for 12 games plus a tournament.
- Games will be scheduled at 6:00, 7:30, or 9:00 p.m. each week and will be played at Optimist Sports Complex in Ellis-Porter Park and/or Washington Park.
- The Department of Parks and Recreation may reschedule canceled games to any day, field, and/or time, if necessary.
- The Department of **Parks and Recreation Hotline, 634-6485 ext. 4**, should be called to determine if games will be played when there is inclement or threatening weather. Decisions will not be made until 4 p.m. on games played Monday - Friday. Cancellations of weekend games will be made at least one hour before the first scheduled game of the day and the hotline will be updated as needed.

### PRACTICES

- Teams with certified NYSCA managers or coaches will be assigned one practice field per week if available, always the same field, day, and time. Parks and Recreation does not otherwise reserve practice fields.
- Parks and Recreation is extremely limited in its ability to provide maintenance for practice fields. Managers should not expect game quality practice fields. All concerned must understand that these fields may be suitable for batting practice, throwing, and catching fly balls, but that game quality infields are not provided. Continued usage of practice ball fields depends largely on how they are cared for. Littering, practicing in non-designated areas (i.e. parking lots), and not reporting or taking responsibility for damaged property are just a few of the complaints that we have received over the years which jeopardizes our chances for continued use of these facilities. Adults have a wonderful opportunity to teach young people the importance of developing an appreciation and sense of proprietorship for their parks. Please emphasize to your players the importance to taking care of park facilities, picking up trash (especially the dugout) when you finish your game and practice and generally showing respect for the facilities and equipment provided by the sponsors and Department.
- We encourage no team to have more than two practices in any Sunday to Saturday period.

### SCORE KEEPING

- The home team will be responsible for keeping the official score.
- Managers must complete a line-up card and present it to the umpire before each game. These cards will be provided by the umpires/field supervisor.
- Managers should verify with the umpire the number of runs scored and announce the total number of pitches thrown in each half inning. After checking with both teams, the umpire will record the score and pitch count for the half inning on a score validation card, which is official.

### PROTEST PROCEDURE

- A team wishing to protest a rule interpretation must notify the home plate umpire before the next pitch is thrown that the remainder of the game is being played under protest.
- The protesting team must file the protest in writing with the Parks and Recreation Office the next business day, accompanied by a \$5.00 protest fee. If the protest is upheld, the \$5.00 fee is refunded. If the protest is rejected, the fee is forfeited. Protests based on the judgment of umpires will not be considered.

### COMPLAINTS CONCERNING COACHES

- If the Department of Parks and Recreation receives a complaint concerning any coach in the program from a parent or guardian of a player on his/her team regarding his/her disregard for the objectives of the program, the coach will be notified by email or phone, detailing the specifics of the allegation(s).
- The coach involved must then contact the Recreation Program Supervisor to respond to the accusations.
- The Department of Parks and Recreation will, to the best of its ability, attempt to determine the validity of the allegation by randomly contacting other parents of the team's participants.
- If it is determined that the coach is in violation of the objectives of the program, his/her involvement with the program will be terminated and revocation of NYSCA/ASA certification will be pursued.
- Decisions may be appealed to the Recreation Services Committee of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

### GENERAL RULES

- The Parks and Recreation Commission has designated all park facilities utilized for youth sports as drug, alcohol, and tobacco (of any form) free areas. Your compliance and cooperation are expected.
- The official playing rules of the National Federation of State High School Association will govern play unless mentioned elsewhere in this packet.
- Umpires will be instructed to not permit unsportsmanlike behavior by coaches or players. Coaches or participants may not "officiate" games from the field or bench by yelling calls such as foul or fair, ball or strike, and out or safe. Verbal abuse or harassment of opponents will not be permitted. Players and guests should be taught to encourage teammates rather than criticizing opponents or umpires. Umpires have the authority to confine offenders to the dugout and remove repeat offenders of this provision from the game. Team managers/instructors are ultimately responsible for the conduct of players/coaches/fans.
- Anyone ejected from a game for unsportsmanlike conduct is suspended from attending that team's next regularly scheduled game (If the next scheduled game be canceled, the suspension will move to the next game actually played). Their attendance will be cause for forfeiture of that game. Two ejections in one season will be cause for dismissal from the program.
- A maximum of four adults will be allowed on the bench with a team during a game. Only that team's players and a maximum of four adult coaches may be on a team's bench during any game.
- The scheduled start time for the game is forfeit time. If the scheduled time is delayed due to the previous game, then the new start time will be the very moment the previous game ends. **A team must have at least seven players to begin a game.**

- All leagues will play the continuous batting order rule. All players who have not missed practice and have not been a discipline problem will bat in a continuous order throughout the game. If a player being benched is the result of her actions, please notify and explain the situation to the umpires(s) and opposing manager before the game (or if the incident happens during the game notify the aforementioned parties then). Managers should thoroughly explain team rules and consequences to team participants and their parents in a pre-season meeting.
- If a player arrives after the lineup has been turned in, her name must be added following the last name on the line-up card (do not write in a participants name if that person is not there).
- There is no such thing as a pinch hitter in these leagues. Substitute runners are permitted only when an injury forces a substitution and must be the player batting immediately ahead of the injured player (on your line-up card) who is not herself on base at the time.
- Parks and Recreation encourages all managers to rotate players from the infield to the outfield throughout the game.
- Pre-game infield practice will be permitted only if the previous game was completed early and time is available prior to the scheduled starting time. In that case, time will be equally divided between the two teams, with the advance approval of the field supervisor or umpires.
- The time limit will be called when the full time allotted in the specific league rules has elapsed. The time begins once the umpire/coaches conference ends. The inning in progress will be completed unless the home team is ahead after the visitor's half of the inning.
- Extra innings will be played until a winner is determined.
- In the event of weather or mechanical/electrical problems, four full innings (3 ½ if the home team is ahead) or 50 minutes will be considered an official game. A game halted earlier for these reasons will be rescheduled in its entirety. There are NO suspended games!
- A courtesy runner must replace the catcher as a base runner when there are two outs. This rule is designed to speed play. The courtesy runner cannot enter unless there are two outs. The courtesy runner must be the player batting immediately before the catcher on the line-up card who is not on base at the time the second out is made.
- If a player is on base and the team manager wishes to enter that player as pitcher when the opponent comes to bat, she may replace that base runner with the player batting immediately before her on the line-up card who is not on base at that time (the number of outs does not matter with this rule). The player leaving base must enter as the pitcher when that team returns to the field. This will help to ensure that an entering pitcher has had adequate time to warm-up properly.
- Umpires will complete feedback forms regarding examples of both good and poor sportsmanship. If either positive or negative feedback form is received by Parks and Recreation, the manager involved will be notified. If negative, he/she MUST respond before the team's next game - if he/she fails to do so, that game will be forfeited. If a second such report is filed on the same team, the manager must meet with the Recreation Program Supervisor and show good reason why he/she should be allowed to continue in the program.
- The team at bat is responsible for retrieving all balls which leave the field of play and returning them to the umpire. Each manager should assign this task to a player or volunteer parent.
- Bleeding/blood - A player or coach who is bleeding or who has blood on his/her uniform shall be prohibited from participating further in game or practice until appropriate

treatment, including bandaging as necessary to prevent recurrence, has been administered. If medical care is needed, participation must be terminated until the problem situation has been resolved! A 70% isopropyl alcohol solution should be used for disinfecting skin and uniforms. If saturated, the uniform must be changed. All affected areas must be thoroughly cleaned before this individual is allowed to continue participating. Participants should bring extra shirt/pants/socks in the event that the umpire(s) or Field Supervisor should determine that the participant must change clothing in order to continue participating. Coaches/sponsors should acquire the cleaning kit that will be needed for their teams.

- **BASERUNNERS CONTACT RULE:**

A runner must attempt to avoid a fielder who has the ball or is waiting to either catch a thrown ball or to make the tag. If, in the judgment of the umpire, the runner does not choose one of the four following options to avoid contact: 1. Go around (staying within three feet left or right of the base line) 2. Go back 3. Stop and be tagged out, or 4. Slide; the baserunner will be called out! If, in the opinion of the umpire(s), the baserunner maliciously ran into the fielder, the runner will be called out and ejected from the game. If ejected, the player may serve a one-game suspension depending on severity of contact. These decisions will be an umpire's judgment call. Fielders Should Not Position Themselves In Any Baseline: Coaches should teach fielders to position themselves just outside the baseline until they have possession of the ball.

- **For All Age Levels For Baseball & Softball Managers:**

Please, inform parents not to bring pets of any kind to the ball fields. While at the ball fields, your attention will be focused towards the participants, not your pets. This can create a potentially dangerous situation where pets may become nervous due to the loud noises or many young children and adults (whom your pets may view as strangers) constantly running/walking in and out of their area. If pets are brought to the ball fields, the Field Supervisor will be forced to ask you to remove them from the field area. Pets are allowed in the park areas only!



### **SPECIAL MODIFIED LEAGUE RULES**

- A 75 minute time limit is in effect. Games will consist of seven innings or time limit, whichever comes first.
- The distance between the back point of home plate and the front of the pitcher's plate will be 35 feet for 10 and under and 40 feet for 12 and under.
- The maximum number of pitches per game
  - 10u: Maximum of two innings per game for a pitcher
  - 12u: Coaches discretion
- Base distance is 60 feet.
- In all leagues, three outs or six runs will retire the side.
- 10u - 10 players will be permitted to play defense. The 'extra' player must play in the outfield and the outfielders must be employed in an arc alignment--short fielders are not permitted.
- The ball is dead once it reaches the "pitching circle." Players may not advance on an overthrow from the catcher to the pitcher.
- 10u will use the 11" yellow fast pitch ball. 12u will use the 12" yellow fast pitch ball.
- 10u – After the pitcher has thrown 4 "balls" the coach comes out and gives up to 3 overhand tosses. Coaches must pitch from the pitching rubber as well.
- Players can only bunt off of a pitcher, not the coach.
- Leave Base:
  - 10u will not be allowed to leave the base until the ball is hit.
  - 12u may leave the base when the ball crosses the plate.
- Leading off is not permitted in any league. Leaving early results in the offending runner(s) being called out and the pitch dead.
- Stealing will not be permitted in the 10u league - Players may advance only one base on an overthrow. In 12u players may advance one base on an overthrow/wild pitch.
- Two umpires will be provided for all leagues.
- The batter may not run on a dropped third strike in the 10u league.
- Bunting is permissible in all leagues.
- The infield fly rule is in effect.
- Pitchers are allowed 5 warm-up pitches between innings. New pitchers are allowed 8 pitches their first time entering the game.
- A batter must be awarded first base if hit by a pitch unless she has swung, is in the process of swinging, or is hit while in the strike zone.
- Games which are tied at the end of the time limit or seven innings will be broken using the international rule. At the start of the next inning, the offensive team shall begin its turn at bat by placing the batter who completed the last "at bat" in the previous inning on second base.
- Standings are kept in all live pitching leagues with t-shirts awarded to the championship coaches and players.
- A Manager or his/her representative may make only three trips into fair territory ("charged conference") in each game. On the fourth and each subsequent charged conference the coach must remove the pitcher from the pitching position for the duration of the game.